

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

January 23, 2001 LB 130

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: (Visitors introduced.) Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator Chambers would move to amend the bill, Mr. President, by striking Section 7. (FA6, Legislative Journal page 377.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Chambers, you're recognized to open on your amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, Section 7 would expand the power of these game and conservation officers. Currently they are not peace officers; they are authorized, under the existing law, to enforce game laws on the property owned or controlled by the commission. The recommended change in LB 130 which I want to strike would make them peace officers for all purposes. They'd be on the same footing as a sheriff, State Patrol, local police, town marshals, and the National Guard during times of civil disorder. I think Game and Parks officers should do what the statute has laid out for them to do, what they have been doing down through the years. This expansion is not necessary and I think it is not desirable anyway. I'm not blindsiding Senator Schrock with this amendment; we've talked about it. And I even talked to a representative of the Game and Parks Commission. They drive pickup trucks and they have little lights that flash in the grill, and they might even have what's called that Kojak light that they can stick up on the...on the dash. So, here you are, driving down the highway, a pickup truck pulls in behind you and lights start flashing in the grill, and then somebody sticks a Kojak light on the dash and they expect you to stop, when not only in other parts of the country but in Omaha and Bellevue they've had problems with people imitating police officers. I told this gentleman that I would not stop for a pickup truck; if it said Game and Parks, I still wouldn't stop. And I don't think we should have a multiplicity of vehicles, people in different types of uniforms being authorized to stop individuals on the highway and function as peace officers. It would be easy for any person to rig lights in the front part of the truck, they may not even be in the grill, and flash them; get a flashlight and put a red lens on it and just hold it in the